

To: Jarvela, Steve[Jarvela.Stephen@epa.gov]
From: IHS Chemical Week Insider
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Subject: Investor pressures Dow, China group eyes two Pacific Northwest methanol plants

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Investor pressures Dow, China group eyes two Pacific Northwest methanol plants

Hedge fund Third Point pushes Dow for petrochemical spin-off

Hedge fund Third Point (New York), on 21 January, revealed a “significant” investment in Dow Chemical and promptly urged management to consider spinning off its petrochemical operations. In a letter to investors, Third Point, run by investor Daniel Loeb, called on Dow to hire advisors to conduct an assessment of whether its petrochemical strategy maximizes profits and aligns with Dow’s goal of transforming into a specialty chemicals company. The review should explicitly explore whether separating Dow’s petrochemical businesses via a spin-off would drive greater stakeholder value,” says Third Point. On 21 January, Dow shares jumped 6%, closing at \$45.92, on the news... [\[more\]](#)

Chinese group plans two mega-methanol plants in US Pacific Northwest to supply olefins feedstock

Northwest Innovation Works (NWIW; Vancouver, WA) has proposed to build two large-scale methanol plants in the US Pacific Northwest. The proposed facilities would each cost \$1 billion and have a design capacity of 5,000 m.t./day. Output from the plants will be shipped to Dalian, China for conversion to olefins. NWIW plans to build the plants at the Port of Kalama, WA, and at Port Westward, on the Oregon side of the Columbia River. NWIW was formed this year. Its backers include PPE, a joint venture between Shanghai Bi Ke Clean Energy Technology Co. (CECC), and Dalian Xizhou Island Petrochemical Park (Dalian, China), together with the Silicon-Valley-based private equity firm H&Q Asia Pacific. CECC is a joint venture... [\[more\]](#)

Freedom Industries declares bankruptcy following WV spill

Freedom Industries has filed for bankruptcy a week after a leak at one of its tanks containing 4-methylcyclohexane methanol (MCHM) forced a water ban in nine West Virginia counties surrounding Charleston, WV—the state’s largest city. The Chapter 11 petition filed on 17 January in the US Bankruptcy Court of the Southern District of West Virginia lists assets and debts of \$10 million each. The filing seeks protection from the company’s creditors and may halt over two dozen lawsuits that residents and business owners have filed over the incident...

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CW Feature: Industrial applications drive water treatment demand

Water treatment chemicals, services, and equipment are increasingly in demand at industrial operations. Companies are also looking to expand in China and help customers comply with environmental rules, producers say. Industrial facilities—the highest-growth end market—are driving the adaptation of reverse-osmosis (RO) membranes and other processes to enable plants to reuse and recycle water. Municipal water treatment customers remain cost-conscious... [\[more\]](#)

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